AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of measuring the differences between a first video signal and a second video signal, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

analysing (31) the~~analysing (31) the~~analyzing information content of each video signal to identify ~~the~~ perceptually relevant boundaries of ~~the~~ video images depicted therein;

comparing ~~the~~ boundaries so defined in the first signal with those in the second signal~~;~~, the comparison including determination of the extent to which the properties of ~~the~~ boundaries defined in the first image are preserved in the second image~~;~~, and

generating an output indicative of ~~the~~ perceptual difference between the first and second signals.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in Claim 1, in which the information content is ~~analysed~~analyzed for a plurality of boundary-identifying characteristics ~~(32, 32d)~~, and the properties of ~~the~~ boundaries on which the comparison is based include ~~the~~ characteristics by which such boundaries are defined in each of the signals.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 2, wherein the characteristics include the presence of edges.

- 4 -

4.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 2, wherein the

characteristics include the presence of disparities between frames of the same signal.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 2, wherein the

characteristics include changes in at least one of the properties of: luminance, ~~colour~~color

or texture.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claims 1, in which the

comparison includes a comparison of ~~the~~ perceptibility of corresponding boundaries

identified in the first and second signals.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 1, in which the

comparison of the images includes ~~the steps of~~:

identification of ~~the~~ principal elements in each image, and

compensation for differences in ~~the~~ relative positions of ~~the~~ said principal

elements.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 1, in which the

analysis includes identification of perceptually significant image features, and the output

indicative of ~~the~~ perceptual difference between the first and second signals is weighted

according to ~~the~~ cognitive relevance of such image features.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 8, in which ~~the~~

perceptually significant image features are those characteristic of the human face.

1079637

10.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 9, in which ~~a~~ weighting is applied to the output according to ~~the~~ significance of the feature in providing visual cues to speech.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 8, in which ~~the~~ perceptually significant image features are those by which individual text characters are distinguished.

12.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus for measuring the differences between a first video signal and a second video signal, said apparatus comprising:

analysis means for ~~the~~processing information content of each video signal to identify ~~the~~ perceptually relevant boundaries of ~~the~~ video images depicted therein;

comparison means for comparing ~~the~~ boundaries so defined in the first signal with those in the second signal~~;~~, the comparison including determination of the extent to which ~~the~~ properties of ~~the~~ boundaries defined in the first image are preserved in the second image~~;~~: and

~~and~~ means for generating an output indicative of ~~the~~ perceptual difference between the first and second signals.

13.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~as in Claim 12, wherein:

the analysis means is arranged to ~~analyse~~analyze ~~the~~ information content in the signals for a plurality of boundary-identifying characteristics, and

- 6 -

1079637

the comparison means is arranged to compare ~~the~~ characteristics by which such boundaries are defined in each of the signals.

14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~<u>as in</u> claim 13, wherein the analysis means includes means to identify the presence of edges.

15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~<u>as in</u> claim 13, wherein the analysis means includes means to identify the presence of disparities between frames of the same signal.

16. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~<u>as in</u> claim 13, wherein the analysis means includes means to identify differences in at least one of the properties of: luminance, ~~colour~~<u>color</u> or texture.

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~<u>as in</u> claim 12, in which the comparison means includes means for determining ~~the~~ perceptibility of the boundaries identified in the first and second signals.

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~<u>as in</u> claim 12, in which the comparison means includes image matching means for ~~identification~~<u>identifying</u> ~~of the~~ principal elements in each image and translation means for effecting translation of one image to compensate for differences in ~~the~~ relative positions of such elements in the first and second images.

1079637

19.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~as in claim 12, in which the comparison means includes weighting means for identifying perceptually significant image features ~~in the components~~, and weighting the output according to ~~the~~ cognitive relevance of such image features.

20.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~as in claim 12, further comprising:

visual stage means for processing original input signals to emulate the response of the human visual system, and to generate modified input signals for input to the analysis means.

1079637